THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) A table is enclosed giving figures of GDP, money supply, currency with public, rate of inflation [as measured by rise in wholesale price index (1981-82=100) of the five years] i.e. 1985-86 to 1989-90. [See Appendix CLV, Annexure No. 13.]

(b) and (c) The Committee to Review the working of the monetary system (Chairman Prof. S. Chakravarty) which examined various studies in this area, observed that "the precise interrelationships between money output and prices have, despite years of research, remained an area of controversy". However, it also felt that the rate of growth in money supply should be in conformity with the desired rate of growth in output and constrain the price increase to an acceptable level. It also suggested setting of indicative monetary targets to bring about a better co-ordination between monetary and fiscal policies.

New Steel Policy

493. SHRI BAL RAM SINGH YADAVA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently declared new steel policy which is aimed at boosting production of steel in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any effective steps for increasing the production of raw material, such as sponge iron, etc., which are used in the production of steel; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, what steps have been taken by Government to make available raw materials to the steel producing units?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government have delicensed the sponge iron industry to encourage establishment of projects for the production of sponge iron. A number of sponge iron units are already in production and the sponge iron manufactured by the units is utilised by the steel producing units. Shortage of raw materials is met through import of scrap. Gas and coal linkages have also been provided for several new sponge iron projects. Establishment of these projects will further increase the availability of sponge iron.

Debt Relief Scheme for Fanners

494. DR. BAPU KALDATE: SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: SHRIMATI MANORAMA PANDEY: SHRI S.K.T. RAMACHANDRAN: SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: SHRI JAGESH DESAI: SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: SHRI N. E. BALARAM: SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what, accoding to the assessment, if any, made by Government is the estimated number of farmers who are likely to be benefitted by the debt relief scheme, State-wise;

(b) what is the estimated amount likely to be written off with the implementation of the scheme;

(c) whether any formula has been worked out by Government with regard to the Central and State Governments' share in giving the debt relief, if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) what is the total amount of relief, if any, given by Government so far, State-wise and what is the share of the